

EPA REGION III

<>Office of Public Affairs

<><PM Headlines

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*** PM HOT LIST ***

DCNR to collect money from drillers who harvest gas under public streams

SCRANTON TIMES Natural gas drillers have to sign leases and compensate the state if they plan to collect gas trapped deep beneath publicly owned streams and rivers, according to a policy developed recently by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The policy applies to gas gathered from pads on neighboring properties - away from the streams and their banks - where wells are drilled vertically before turning and boring laterally underground. Waterways in the commonwealth are considered publicly owned if they are, or have ever been, used for commercial trade or travel. The list and maps of the waterways compiled by DCNR include hundreds of streams throughout the Marcellus Shale region of the state.

Mobile home park residents remain as move date hits

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE JERSEY SHORE - Deb Eck and her two daughters have lived at the Riverdale Mobile Home Park for 10 years. On Friday, they went from residents to trespassers. Bryn Mawr-based company Aqua PVR LLC. several months ago bought the 37-unit park so it can build a water withdrawal facility on the site to support the natural gas industry. The company set June 1 as the deadline for residents to move out, but Eck said she will not move. "It's not that we're not leaving," she said of a handful of residents who continue to live at the park. "We can't leave. We can't (afford) it." The \$2,500 the company offered residents as an incentive to move doesn't come close to covering the cost of moving Eck's trailer, she said. On Thursday evening, with the deadline looming and the chance the company would begin sending work crews to the site Friday morning, supporters of residents, many of them anti-gas industry activists, converged on the park.

Rising tide six decades ago to clean the Lackawanna

SCRANTON TIMES They met with one common goal: a cleaner Lackawanna River. Concerned individuals, representatives from sportsmen's groups and cities and towns along the river gathered at the Hotel Casey on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 22, 1961, for a hearing to decide the fate of the body of water that takes its name from the native tribe that once settled here. When the Lenni-Lenape people lived on its banks, the river they called Leehaw-hanna, or forked stream, thrived, its pristine waters filled with fish. The earliest white settlers did little to change the river. In fact, in the early years of Hyde Park, Providence and Slocum Hollow, the Lackawanna was the source of drinking water.

Blotchy bass raise questions about Susquehanna River

HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKERHARRISBURG - The state Fish and Boat Commission wants a sister agency to designate the mainstream of the Susquehanna River impaired so additional scientific studies can be done to determine the cause of a major decline in smallmouth bass. The decision is in the hands of the Department of Environmental Protection, which says there isn't sufficient evidence yet to list a nearly 100-mile stretch of the Susquehanna from Sunbury downstream to the Holtwood Dam as impaired. A public comment period on the state's official list of impaired and threatened waters just ended. Fish commission officials aired their concerns about the lack of a Susquehanna designation so far at a hearing last month before the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee. The smallmouth bass has been hit with outbreaks of bacterial infections periodically since 2005, said fish commission biologist Geoff Smith.

A new chapter for Sparrows Point

BALTIMORE-SUN Our view: Layoffs and a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing underscore the need for not just a new owner but a new business plan for Sparrows Point. Four years ago, the purchase of the Sparrows Point steel mill by OAO Severstal stirred hopes among steelworkers, their families and the community. Last year, the appearance of new owners Renco Group Inc. and its subsidiary, RG Steel, did, too. Four times in the past decade, expectations have periodically been raised in similar fashion. Might the next owners turn things around and provide the needed investments to make Sparrows Point competitive again? Each time, those hopes have been dashed and a parade of managers proved themselves unequal to the task. The recent Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by RG Steel on the heels of the company's decision to shut down operations and lay off nearly 2,000 workers at Sparrows Point, beginning today, came as no big surprise. Like

those investors who came before it, the company says it wants to find a buyer for the facility (as well as the company's related operations in West Virginia and Ohio). ... So while we applaud the county's efforts, we would humbly recommend that the partnership be expanded to include members with expertise in brownfields and environmental contamination, as well as representatives of the local communities. Their expertise and opinion.

Adding Faces and Voices to the Fight to Cut Carbon Pollution

HUFFINGTON POST Last week, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held hearings in Washington, D.C. and Chicago about their proposed new standard to limit carbon pollution from new power plants. For those of us who don't live near a power plant this may seem like a lower priority issue. However, the truth is it affects us all and as my colleague Kim Knowlton wrote Monday, each person's voice in support of this issue and the proposed carbon standard is critical right now

Carlisle Borough's treatment plant upgrades nearly complete

CARLISLE SENTINEL Two years and more than \$16 million later, Carlisle Borough is nearing completion of a federal mandate to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. “It should be about one more month before the upgrade is completed,” said Pete Selan, the borough’s treatment plants manager. “We’re very pleased.” The upgrades are mandates imposed by the federal government to comply with the Chesapeake Bay cleanup initiative. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier had enacted new limits that required the six states served by the Chesapeake Bay – Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia – and the District of Columbia, to upgrade all wastewater treatment plants to reduce the output of nitrogen, phosphorus and other chemicals polluting the bay. “EPA is creating the rigorous accountability framework for accelerating cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay and the region’s waterways,” EPA spokesman David Sternberg said in a news release.

D.C. Students Help Solve Real-World Water Challenges

PRWEBStudents from 13 participating schools in the Be Water Wise DC program presented their solutions to real-world water conservation and stormwater challenges at the D.C. City Council Friday. Runoff from city streets of rainwater contributes to water pollution, affecting the quality of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers—and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The student presentations included water-saving measures being implemented at their schools—from installing rain barrels and planting rain gardens to reduce runoff, to educating entire school communities on conserving water through assemblies, posted signs and student-prepared materials. Students at some schools have even contributed to helping restore the population of American shad by hatching and releasing the native fish into the Anacostia.

***** MORNING HOT LIST *****

Pennsylvania to Help Clean Up the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC RADIO Pennsylvania isn’t exactly leading the pack of the six states and Washington, D.C. in plans for reducing pollution to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. However, the state’s plan for bringing down waste water pollution has been upgraded per the Environment Protection Agency’s (EPA) estimation. A separate plan for minimizing agricultural runoff is getting some amount of scrutiny from the federal government, but the proposal to cut nearly half of urban and suburban storm water pollution is being called overly ambitious. Shawn Garvin, a Regional Administrator with the federal agency, explained why the EPA deemed the state plan unfeasible. “It’s a pretty ambitious, heavy lift, and we’re still working with them to figure out how they’re actually going to accomplish it, and so, based on that we feel, there’s still more work to be done,” Garvin said.

Editorial: New York needs Bay plan

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES (Md.) The federal Environmental Protection Agency’s efforts to prompt New York state to complete its plan for reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay highlights the difficulty that Maryland has experienced for years in attempting to get multiple states to do their fair share. Maryland continues to adopt laws and impose fees designed to help the Bay. In the latest legislative session, lawmakers doubled the fee, the so-called flush tax, that residents must pay to help finance sewage treatment plant upgrades. Residents also face new local fees on driveways and impervious surfaces in an effort to reduce runoff, and farmers for years have seen increasingly strict regulations on their operations. But Maryland isn’t alone in contributing pollution that impacts the Bay. The watershed region includes New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware. As such, the EPA requires each of those states to take steps to reduce pollution running into the Bay.

Hands Across Riverdale: The Human Costs of Fracking

HUFFINGTON POST Last February, residents of the Riverdale Mobile Homes Park, a neighborhood on the outskirts of a small city in rural Lycoming County, Pennsylvania with the unlikely name of Jersey Shore, noticed an article in *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*. Richard A. "Skip" Leonard, who owned the land on which the 32 unit trailer park was located, had agreed to sell his property. A few days later the residents got letters from Donna P. Alston, director of communication for Aqua America Corporation, informing them that their leases had been terminated "immediately."

Morgantown tries again: City would use zoning laws to keep gas drillers out

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.) MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- This city learned the hard way that it couldn't ban shale-gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing within its borders, but it has a new plan that would render most of the city off-limits. On Tuesday, the City Council will introduce six zoning ordinances that would effectively limit drilling to 600 acres surrounding the Morgantown Municipal Airport."In West Virginia, you can't use zoning to ban any type of use," said

Chris Fletcher, director of development services. "You have to identify some area where it's appropriate. So that's what we did."If the measure limiting drilling to designated industrial zones is introduced as expected, a public hearing would be held July 3, Fletcher said. A final vote could come that night.

Stout: Air Pollution Too Close to WPHS

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER Professor says drilling pad is a bad idea. WHEELING - Citing that the company may release methane, carbon dioxide, formaldehyde and benzene into the air just about 1,300 feet from Wheeling Park High School, Ben Stout wants Chesapeake Energy to move its well somewhere else. "Wheeling Park High School - that's where my kids go to school. I don't want them to be a part of science experiment gone bad," said Stout, Wheeling Jesuit University biology professor, during his Friday presentation to the Northern Panhandle Regional Public Health Conference at Oglebay Park. "It is a mistake for the industry to use our children like this." Stout and Michael McCawley, interim chairman of the Department of Environmental Health at West Virginia University, spoke about the possible atmospheric impacts natural gas drilling could have in the Mountain State's Northern Panhandle.

Shale gas vs. the hermit thrush: Marcellus development is fragmenting the forests where the songbirds live

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE Can a hymn-like bird song serve as a call for better regulation of Pennsylvania's booming shale gas industry? The thought occurred to me on a late July evening after a unique forum at the Oakland studios of WQED. As I drove across a rutted patch of Fifth Avenue, the backseat contents shifted, engaging a recording of forest bird calls. Flute-like hermit thrush notes provided a sound track completely at odds with the urban surroundings. More appropriate settings for the song that renowned naturalist John Burroughs termed "the finest sound in nature" lay miles to the east and north amid the upper reaches of hemlock-shaded hillsides flanking Laurel Ridge, and all across the vast hardwood forests of north central Pennsylvania's high plateau. Here the hermit thrush population has been steadily increasing for five decades, a trend attributable to expanding and maturing forest cover.

Pollutants in Wicomico River decline slightly

SALISBURY TIMES SALISBURY -- Results of annual monitoring in the Wicomico River and its watershed show a very slight decrease in pollutant levels. The Wicomico Creekwatchers' 2011 Water Quality Monitoring Results were "quite mixed," the report states.The 23 sampling sites were divided into four groups: Ponds, Upper Wicomico, Lower Wicomico and Wicomico Creek. During this year's testing, all groups showed an improving trend in Total Nitrogen; but Chlorophyll, water clarity, and Total Phosphorus were worse for all groups, except for Total Phosphorous in the Upper Wicomico. Water clarity in particular worsened substantially. Judith Stribling, supervisor of the Creekwatchers' program, said the poor water clarity can be attributed to the year's low rainfall, which impaired flushing and promoted algae bloom growth.

Tinicum fights airport expansion project

PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE The proposed \$6.4 billion Philadelphia International Airport expansion project has its share of detractors, including residents from Tinicum Township, Pennsylvania — who recently filed a lawsuit to halt the project — and the Environmental Protection Agency. POWER — Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild can be added to the list of entities seeking clarity — and equal job opportunities for the city's skilled minority workforce. POWER plans to meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 6206 Grays Ferry Avenue, to discuss the finer, financial nuances of the plan. Reverend Cean James will head this meeting, the first such one to take place at the church. The church also held an informal meeting earlier this year in regard to the project, but Tuesday's meeting represents the first of four city-wide meetings, which POWER sees as a "campaign to address economic injustice in the city." ... Tinicum residents in April held a hearing with a panel of three federal judges who heard their complaints — chief among them that the project would eliminate more than 70 residential dwellings. Media reports suggested the EPA is backing the Tinicum residents in the matter. And US Airways — one of the airport's biggest customers — is said to be against the project from the start, claiming it will cost too much money and will not alleviate air congestion in the manner the FAA believes it will. This proposed project comes on the heels of a \$117 million expansion currently underway.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

From Early Bird Commentary: Embrace the natural-gas solution Edward G. Rendell is the former governor of Pennsylvania. States, cities, and local municipalities are feeling the burden of high gasoline prices across the nation. Just like you, mayors and city managers feel the pain at the pump each time they refuel one of their fleet or public transportation vehicles on traditional gasoline or diesel fuel. Each time they fill up, valuable taxpayer money that could be used to pay for critical programs or to hire teachers, police officers, and firefighters is instead wastefully poured into a gas tank, often sending U.S. dollars overseas to fund regimes that are hostile toward our values.

From Early Bird The scrap metal biz booms ... Business is booming at scrap yards, where recycling and metal dealers are seeing a growing number of homeowners and nontraditional clients making the extra trip to cash in their used bikes, old tools, and discarded soda cans. The scrap yards also have their share of regular customers, including contractors, who consider what they expect to earn in scrap when they bid for a job, and peddlers, who drive around retrieving metal discards. At Schneider's, an old bike can bring in \$3. Someone can pocket \$12 for an aluminum wheel. Copper and steel parts inside an old air conditioner could yield close to \$20. A cast-iron bathtub nets \$40. And a stainless steel sink? Another \$12.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

From Early Bird Towns prepare for Marcellus impact fees

HARRISBURG -- For the tiny Columbia in Bradford County, the new gas drilling impact fee will yield a check later this year nearly equal to the township's annual budget. The northeastern Pennsylvania township's 1,200 residents have witnessed about 125 gas wells being drilled due to the Marcellus Shale boom -- the most of any town in the commonwealth, according to the most recent state data. While that data remains somewhat in flux as state officials and drillers fact-check a list of more than 4,800 gas wells, even conservative estimates show that the town is eligible for a check this fall of more than \$1.1 million.

From Early Bird Shale gas vs. the hermit thrush: Marcellus development is fragmenting the forests where the songbirds live. Can a hymn-like bird song serve as a call for better regulation of Pennsylvania's booming shale gas industry? The thought occurred to me on a late July evening after a unique forum at the Oakland studios of WQED. As I drove across a rutted patch of Fifth Avenue, the backseat contents shifted, engaging a recording of forest bird calls. Flute-like hermit thrush notes provided a sound track completely at odds with the urban surroundings. More appropriate settings for the song that renowned naturalist John Burroughs termed "the finest sound in nature" lay miles to the east and north amid the upper reaches of hemlock-shaded hillsides flanking Laurel Ridge, and all across the vast hardwood forests of north central Pennsylvania's high plateau. Here the hermit thrush population has been steadily increasing for five decades, a trend attributable to expanding and maturing forest cover.

From Early Bird Judge lifts order protecting Beaver County drillers A temporary restraining order that barred a Beaver County family from contesting shale gas drilling on their farm was dissolved today, according to attorneys for the family and for Chesapeake Appalachia. The decision by U.S. District Judge David S. Cercone to remove the temporary restraining order could push the hotly contested lease challenge into negotiations or renewed confrontation, said attorneys for the family of Robert McRoberts, of Darlington. Chesapeake "got this TRO, and they used this document as a shield against outside influence," said James Brink, one of the attorneys for the McRoberts family and several neighboring families who have said they were tricked into signing disadvantageous leases that were later purchased by Chesapeake. "Guess what? No TRO." "We're going forward with our operations and that would be appropriate under the lease," said Dave Fawcett, an attorney for Chesapeake.

From Early Bird Philly a pacesetter in a storm Members of **Action United** in Hazelwood have a few modest examples of how greening their neighborhood can also beautify it, add jobs and spare our water and sewer system all the rain run-off that carries with it pollutants (oil from our dripping cars, bacteria from the dog poop we smear on the sidewalk and other things that I know I don't want in my drinking water). I reported earlier this week on a rainy-day tour they took city Councilman **Corey O'Connor** on to try to influence his interest in helping with these relatively modest green infrastructure projects as step-by-step, affordable solutions to an otherwise wildly expensive one. Then today I read about a massive, citywide response to a federally-mandated **Clean Water Act** compliance order... in Philadelphia. **Neal Peirce** of the Washington Post Writer's Group writes on citiwire.net about our crossstate big sister's incredibly comprehensive plan to keep stormwater out of their water and sewer system. Get this — Philly has an Office of Watersheds. If you're into this stuff, the Philly Water Department's web site is hot.

From Early Bird Yellow Cab switching some vehicles to propane Yellow Cab of Pittsburgh is setting about making its vehicles a little greener, a step that will put more green into the pockets of its drivers. The company on Wednesday showed off the first of about 55 cabs that are being converted to run on propane rather than gasoline. "We want to be environmentally responsible," said Jamie Campolongo, president of Pittsburgh Transportation Group, which operates Yellow Cab. Its parent company, Veolia Transportation, "is an environmental company. Part of their mission is to reduce carbon gases," he said. Beyond the environmental benefit, propane is cheaper. Because drivers lease their cabs and pay for fuel, the savings -- currently about \$1.25 per gallon -- will be theirs. Mr. Campolongo estimated that a typical driver could save \$2,300 per year or more.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

From Early Bird Washington County couple sue oil, gas firm on lease A Washington County couple claim in a lawsuit moved to federal court on Friday that an Oklahoma company filed a false legal notice in an attempt to hang onto an expired oil and gas lease. Robert and Nancy Briggs of Avella say Chesapeake Energy Corp. of Oklahoma City tried to renew the lease by using 2005 market values instead of current values. The original lease the couple signed with Great Lakes Energy Partners LLC allows an extension only on "similar" terms, they said. "Similar" means current market value, said Michael Cruny, one of the lawyers representing the Briggses.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY WEEKLIES

From Early Bird New Garden considers new MS4 ordinances After years of talking and preparation, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is preparing to enforce those MS4 requirements. On Monday night at the New Garden Township's regular business meeting, township engineer Nate Cline of Pennoni and Assoc. gave an overview of what is expected this fall when DEP begins enforcement of the program. The MS4 -- or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System -- program was created to manage stormwater overflow and to mitigate the effect of runoff from impervious surfaces and farms that impact stream and groundwater quality. The program is administered through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program as part of the Clean Water Act.

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC RADIO

From Early Bird Pennsylvania to Help Clean Up the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Pennsylvania isn't exactly leading the pack of the six states and Washington, D.C. in plans for reducing pollution to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. However, the state's plan for bringing down waste water pollution has been upgraded per the Environment Protection Agency's (EPA) estimation. A separate plan for minimizing agricultural runoff is getting some amount of scrutiny from the federal government, but the proposal to cut nearly half of urban and suburban storm water pollution is being called overly ambitious. Shawn Garvin, a Regional Administrator with the federal agency, explained why the EPA deemed the state plan unfeasible. "It's a pretty ambitious, heavy lift, and we're still working with them to figure out how they're actually going to accomplish it, and so, based on that we feel, there's still more work to be done," Garvin said.

WEST CHESTER DAILY LOCAL NEWS

From Early Bird State extends comment period for gas pipeline plan WEST CHESTER — The state Department of Environmental Protection has agreed to extend the period for public comment on a company's plan to install a new natural

gas pipeline across the Brandywine Creek. A state official announced Friday that the June 4 deadline for public comment on the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company's river-crossing plan has been extended through a July public hearing, which it has also agreed to hold at the request of state Sens. Andy Dinniman, D-19th of West Whiteland, and John Rafferty Jr., R-44th of Collegeville. The senators had also informed the state that the public needs more opportunity and time to comment on the project.

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

From Early Bird Letter: Radioactive pollution remains for a long timeRegarding Evan Brandt's article of radioactive material by Exelon at the Limerick Nuclear plant on May 15, let us remember: dilution is not the solution to pollution. Trite but true. Whatever is being diluted is still there. Testing, sample taking and results can often be highly suspect. The radioactive material might be in "batches" in the river water or it could be spread out. Who takes samples? When? Where? Are highest and lowest measurements thrown out and the rest averaged, etc., etc., etc.? Does the radioactive material remain in the river bottom silts? If it is dredged, where does it go? Is it tested for radioactive nuclides? What is the status of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit that Exelon applied for? Is it true that local groups that purport to care about the river take money from Exelon? Is that why they are so quiet? What do they think? Please don't mix things. Please isolate pollutants safely above ground. Please remember the National Academy of Sciences says there is no safe level of exposure to radioactive materials. Please help stop Exelon from getting their license renewed at Limerick. Rivers are not dump sites.

JONSTOWN TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

From Early Bird Cleanup work downstream affecting local sewer rates
— Residents in Cresson Borough and parts of Cresson Township, served by a modern wastewater treatment plant, pay on average \$30.50 monthly for sewer service. Travel less than three miles north on Route 53 to Gallitzin, and residents are facing a sudden increase in rates from \$27 to \$95 per month. That's because the collection system and treatment plant are in need of replacement. The Cresson system has been improved, and grants have helped curb the rate increases. But another driving factor in this rate inequity is far downstream at the Chesapeake Bay, where a two-decade cleanup is ongoing. Cresson is in the watershed feeding into the Little Conemaugh and eventually the Ohio River. But Gallitzin is in the Chest Creek watershed, which feeds into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and flows into the Chesapeake.

PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

From Early Bird Tinicum fights airport expansion projectThe proposed \$6.4 billion Philadelphia International Airport expansion project has its share of detractors, including residents from Tinicum Township, Pennsylvania— who recently filed a lawsuit to halt the project — and the Environmental Protection Agency. POWER — Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild can be added to the list of entities seeking clarity — and equal job opportunities for the city's skilled minority workforce. POWER plans to meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 6206 Grays Ferry Avenue, to discuss the finer, financial nuances of the plan. Reverend Cean James will head this meeting, the first such one to take place at the church. The church also held an informal meeting earlier this year in regard to the project, but Tuesday's meeting represents the first of four city-wide meetings, which POWER sees as a "campaign to address economic injustice in the city." ... Tinicum residents in April held a hearing with a panel of three federal judges who heard their complaints — chief among them that the project would eliminate more than 70 residential dwellings. Media reports suggested the EPA is backing the Tinicum residents in the matter. And US Airways — one of the airport's biggest customers — is said to be against the project from the start, claiming it will cost too much money and will not alleviate air congestion in the manner the FAA believes it will. This proposed project comes on the heels of a \$117 million expansion currently underway.

ALTOONA MIRROR

From Early Bird Pollution solution — or not?
Cove digester project delayed as nutrient credit market fizzles. MARTINSBURG - A 2010 loan request lists "5/1/2012" as the completion date for the massive Morrisons Cove agricultural digester project. More than a month after that date passed, the project's site adjacent to Central High School is a green-and-brown farm field without a single structure. The Cove Area Regional Digester - for more than 10 years the subject of excitement, anger and rumor in the Cove - remains stalled, its business model questioned and a \$10 million state loan withdrawn.

NPR/ STATEIMPACT

From Early Bird Cornell University Professor at Odds with Pa. DEP Over Regulation
A Cornell University professor told a congressional subcommittee on Thursday that the development of shale gas has happened so quickly, there's now a "research gap" on the public health and environmental impacts. Robert Howarth told the subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform, that most of the peer-reviewed science has been published within the last 14 months. Bloomberg BusinessWeek reports that Howarth also urged more federal oversight of natural gas drilling.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

From Early Bird Pa. to remain center of gas drilling, experts say PITTSBURGH (AP) - Like a runner who's gotten a big head start in a race, Pennsylvania may be set to dominate natural gas production in the Marcellus Shale region for many years, experts say. With billions of dollars already invested in leases, wells and related infrastructure, the state is a cost-effective place to do business. And a plunge in wholesale prices has made being thrifty a must for some companies, dealing a potential blow to would-be upstart New York. Fadel Gheit, an oil and gas analyst with Oppenheimer & Co. in New York City, says he expects Pennsylvania to be the center of activity for the next few years, if not longer. "The industry will always stay with what they've got," said Gheit, adding that for many companies, there's less risk sticking with a state - and with regulations - they know. New York, he added, is generally seen as a more liberal state than Pennsylvania, and thus more prone to imposing stricter rules on drilling. An existing base of suppliers also helps, Gheit said, as well as a growing network of pipelines linking the Pennsylvania wells to regional and national hubs.

PITTSBURG TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Experts: Drillers must coordinate to prevent sprawl Gas wells, compressor stations and pipelines springing up across the state could chew up as much land as the strip mine industry once did, a Penn State University researcher said. That's why, five years into the state's drilling boom, it's important to take steps soon to help keep gas drilling development from sprawling out of control, said Patrick Drohan, a soil, forest and fish expert studying drilling at Penn State. Those steps include things such as consolidating pipeline paths, coordinating with logging and farm operations, and forming regional planning groups, researchers say.

SCRANTON TIMES

DCNR to collect money from drillers who harvest gas under public streams Natural gas drillers have to sign leases and compensate the state if they plan to collect gas trapped deep beneath publicly owned streams and rivers, according to a policy developed recently by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The policy applies to gas gathered from pads on neighboring properties - away from the streams and their banks - where wells are drilled vertically before turning and boring laterally underground. Waterways in the commonwealth are considered publicly owned if they are, or have ever been, used for commercial trade or travel. The list and maps of the waterways compiled by DCNR include hundreds of streams throughout the Marcellus Shale region of the state.

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HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKER

Blotchy bass raise questions about Susquehanna River HARRISBURG - The state Fish and Boat Commission wants a sister agency to designate the mainstream of the Susquehanna River impaired so additional scientific studies can be done to determine the cause of a major decline in smallmouth bass. The decision is in the hands of the Department of Environmental Protection, which says there isn't sufficient evidence yet to list a nearly 100-mile stretch of the Susquehanna from Sunbury downstream to the Holtwood Dam as impaired. A public comment period on the state's official list of impaired and threatened waters just ended. Fish commission officials aired their concerns about the lack of a Susquehanna designation so far at a hearing last month before the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee. The smallmouth bass has been hit with outbreaks of bacterial infections periodically since 2005, said fish commission biologist Geoff Smith.

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

Mobile home park residents remain as move date hits JERSEY SHORE - Deb Eck and her two daughters have lived at the Riverdale Mobile Home Park for 10 years. On Friday, they went from residents to trespassers. Bryn Mawr-based company Aqua PVR LLC. several months ago bought the 37-unit park so it can build a water withdrawal facility on the site to support the natural gas industry. The company set June 1 as the deadline for residents to move out, but Eck said she will not move. "It's not that we're not leaving," she said of a handful of residents who continue to live at the park. "We can't leave. We can't (afford) it." The \$2,500 the company offered residents as an incentive to move doesn't come close to covering the cost of moving Eck's trailer, she said. On Thursday evening, with the deadline looming and the chance the company would begin sending work crews to the site Friday morning, supporters of residents, many of them anti-gas industry activists, converged on the park.

CARLISLE SENTINEL

Carlisle Borough's treatment plant upgrades nearly complete Two years and more than \$16 million later, Carlisle Borough is nearing completion of a federal mandate to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. "It should be about one more month before the upgrade is completed," said Pete Selan, the borough's treatment plants manager. "We're very pleased." The upgrades are mandates imposed by the federal government to comply with the Chesapeake Bay cleanup initiative. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier had enacted new limits that required the six states served by the Chesapeake Bay – Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia – and the District of Columbia, to upgrade all wastewater treatment plants to reduce the output of nitrogen, phosphorus and other chemicals polluting the bay. "EPA is creating the rigorous accountability framework for accelerating cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay and the region's waterways," EPA spokesman David Sternberg said in a news release.

STATEIMPACT (Pennsylvania)

Krancer (Once Again) Tells Washington To "Back Off" Last month, StateImpact Pennsylvania detailed Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer's adverse relationship with the federal government: When the EPA began an investigation of whether or not the water in Dimock, Susquehanna County was safe to drink, Krancer essentially told EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson she didn't know what she was talking about. "We realize and recognize that EPA is very new to all of this and the EPA's understanding of the facts and science behind this activity is rudimentary," he wrote. "Fortunately, Pennsylvania is not new to all of this and we have a long history of experience at overseeing and regulating oil and natural gas extraction activities in our state, including hydraulic fracturing." ...Sitting in his Harrisburg office, Krancer said the EPA doesn't always trust the state's judgment. "It's amazing to me sometimes how stupid the EPA has discovered we became as of January 19, 2011," he said, pointing to the date the Republican Corbett Administration took control. "And I continue to say that. It is somewhat frustrating because I do have 2,600 of the best experts on the planet....and I think sometimes my federal partners don't recognize that." Yesterday, Krancer took that message directly to Washington, telling a House committee the federal government needs to "back off" of drilling oversight, and let states take the lead.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

From Early Bird DC's big sewer dig: Why the whole region should pitch in

The Washington metropolitan area is the capital of the wealthiest, most powerful democracy on Earth. So why are we stuck with a wastewater system that's a legacy of the 19th century? Right now, when we get a big rainstorm, the system is overwhelmed, and a lot of our effluent bypasses our treatment facility and goes right into the area's waterways, feeding into the Chesapeake Bay. Fortunately, an ambitious and absolutely necessary program is underway to bring the District and the metro area into the 21st century and protect our streams, rivers and the bay. D.C. Water launched the 20-year, \$2.6 billion Clean Rivers Project to eliminate sewage discharge into area waterways. That project, mandated by a 2005 consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency, will build underground tunnels to store overflow stormwater and sewage during rainstorms until it can be sent to the treatment plant.

PRWEB
D.C. Students Help Solve Real-World Water Challenges Students from 13 participating schools in the Be Water Wise DC program presented their solutions to real-world water conservation and stormwater challenges at the D.C. City Council Friday. Runoff from city streets of rainwater contributes to water pollution, affecting the quality of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers—and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The student presentations included water-saving measures being implemented at their schools—from installing rain barrels and planting rain gardens to reduce runoff, to educating entire school communities on conserving water through assemblies, posted signs and student-prepared materials. Students at some schools have even contributed to helping restore the population of American shad by hatching and releasing the native fish into the Anacostia.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE
From Early Bird Secretary of Interior launches *Delaware* Bayshore Initiative. Projects, programs aimed at reconnecting people with natural areas. Slaughter Beach — With the blue waters of the Delaware Bay as a backdrop, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar joined with Delaware's congressional delegation, state and county leaders and officials representing dozens of environmental and preservation groups to launch the Delaware Bayshore Initiative, part of the national America's Great Outdoors program. The Bayshore, — 200,000 acres from Delaware City south to Lewes along the shore of the Delaware Bay — has been designated as an area of national significance. About 120,000 acres are already protected. The Bayshore Initiative is in the same class as other major initiatives under way, including a project to restore millions of acres of wetlands in the Everglades, Salazar said. “The Bayshore initiative is one of the highest priorities for funding,” he said. Wearing cowboy boots and jeans, the former Colorado attorney general and senator arrived via Delaware State Police helicopter with Gov. Jack Markell and U.S. Sen. Tom Carper to get a bird’s eye view of the Delaware Bay.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE
From Early Bird EPA skips latest 'war on coal' hearing federal agencies decided to skip a Friday hearing staged to give congressional Republicans another opportunity to continue their campaign against Obama administration policies aimed at reducing coal's impacts on the environment, public health, and the global climate.

From Early Bird Allan Tweddle: It's time to end our dependence on coal
CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginians had better wake up to the lies and brainwashing of the coal industry and their bought and paid for elected officials. As a taxpayer, I resent my taxes paying for their lying. They lied again at the recent "Coal LOVE IN Forum", claiming that coal provides 50 percent of electric energy in the United States. It's down to 36 percent, and, as that brilliant WVU alumnus Ray Lane, chairman of the WVU Foundation, predicted here in Charleston just a few years ago, it will continue to decline to zero within 10 years.

Commentary: Patton, Hanauer, Ward and Boettner: Gas states unite! CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Hydraulic fracturing of oil and natural gas has generated heated debate in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, three of the states that sit above the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations. Like the workers who constitute the bulk of the drilling workforce, hydrofracking has migrated, from sparsely populated places in Wyoming, New Mexico, Texas and Canada, to the East. Four years into the boom it's become clear how poorly we understand the possible impacts on workers, communities and families.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)
From Early Bird Morgantown tries again: City would use zoning laws to keep gas drillers out MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- This city learned the hard way that it couldn't ban shale-gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing within its borders, but it has a new plan that would render most of the city off-limits. On Tuesday, the City Council will introduce six zoning ordinances that would effectively limit drilling to 600 acres surrounding the Morgantown Municipal Airport."In West Virginia, you can't use zoning to ban any type of use," said Chris Fletcher, director of development services. "You have to identify some area where it's appropriate. So that's what we did."If the measure limiting drilling to designated industrial

zones is introduced as expected, a public hearing would be held July 3, Fletcher said. A final vote could come that night.

PA's proposed tax break for Shell cracker plant worth \$67 million a year HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Gov. Tom Corbett, who has been criticized for cutting state spending for schools and social services, is advocating future tax credits worth \$67 million a year for a petrochemical refinery planned by Shell Oil Co. in western Pennsylvania to capitalize on booming natural-gas drilling in the Marcellus shale region. Corbett has not publicly discussed the proposed tax break, but Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati's top aide confirmed June 4 the information first reported by the online news service Capitolwire. The aide, Drew Crompton, said lawmakers will demand assurances that the plant will be built in Pennsylvania and that promises of 10,000 to 20,000 jobs will materialize. The bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate this week, he said.

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

From Early Bird Stout: Air Pollution Too Close to WPHS Professor says drilling pad is a bad idea. WHEELING - Citing that the company may release methane, carbon dioxide, formaldehyde and benzene into the air just about 1,300 feet from Wheeling Park High School, Ben Stout wants Chesapeake Energy to move its well somewhere else. "Wheeling Park High School - that's where my kids go to school. I don't want them to be a part of science experiment gone bad," said Stout, Wheeling Jesuit University biology professor, during his Friday presentation to the Northern Panhandle Regional Public Health Conference at Oglebay Park. "It is a mistake for the industry to use our children like this." Stout and Michael McCawley, interim chairman of the Department of Environmental Health at West Virginia University, spoke about the possible atmospheric impacts natural gas drilling could have in the Mountain State's Northern Panhandle.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

From Early Bird Fish kills fade, troublesome algae remain Harmful blooms of other types pose threats to animals, people. The fish kills that have plagued Baltimore's Inner Harbor and nearby creeks over the past two weeks may have eased with the dip in temperatures, but scientists caution that's not the last we've seen of potentially toxic and even deadly algae blooms in area waters. As summer heats up again, potentially dangerous microorganisms could bloom in the wake of algae blamed for suffocating fish from Dundalk to Annapolis. Officials are keeping tabs on the growth of algae around the Chesapeake Bay that have poisoned tens of thousands of fish — including one type found blooming in a Cecil County river that has in the past killed two dogs and can also be fatal to humans.

From Early Bird Sparrows Point cleanup to go on, despite bankruptcy Spokeswoman: "RG Steel will continue to meet environmental compliance requirements" The bankruptcy filing by the owner of Sparrows Point casts yet another cloud over the future of steel-making there, but spokespeople for RG Steel and the Maryland Department of the Environment both say it should have no effect on the cleanup of longstanding toxic contamination there. The company has continued cleanup work begun in 2010 by the mill's previous owner, Severstal North America, pumping and treating contaminated ground water to fulfill the terms of a consent decree with federal and state regulators that was agreed to in 1997 by the mill's original owner, Bethlehem Steel, which later filed for bankruptcy and sold the complex, beginning a series of handovers of the troubled facility. "RG Steel will continue to meet environmental compliance requirements," company spokeswoman Bette Kovach said by email Thursday.

From Early Bird RG Steel has until July 27 to sell Sparrows Point steel mill

From Early Bird Trio of Manchester schools added to state 'green' listing Ebb Valley Elementary School, Manchester Elementary School, and Manchester Valley High School have all been selected for certification as Maryland Green Schools for 2012, according to the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Two other Carroll County public schools, Sykesville and West middle schools, were already "green schools," and were approved for recertification. The school were cited for various environmental programs and educational efforts implemented by staff and students. The schools were scheduled to be recognized during the Maryland Green School Youth Summit on June 1, at Sandy Point State Park. Each new Green School receives a Maryland Green School flag

From Early Bird .Letter: Concerns over pesticide testing are justified The Maryland Pesticide Network (MPN) appreciates The Sun's extensive and fair coverage of the dispute regarding the current Lyme disease study being conducted in Maryland by the state's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("Pesticide testing plan stirs dispute," May 29). We share the state's concern regarding Lyme disease and support increased education of residents regarding disease prevention. However, it should be noted that MPN does not oppose the use of all pesticides. We are a coalition of organizations, as our website states, "dedicated to protecting the public and the environment from the adverse affects of pesticides and promoting healthy alternatives."

A new chapter for Sparrows Point Our view: Layoffs and a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing underscore the need for not just a new owner but a new business plan for Sparrows Point. Four years ago, the purchase of the Sparrows Point steel mill by OAO Severstal stirred hopes among steelworkers, their families and the community. Last year, the appearance of new owners Renco Group Inc. and its subsidiary, RG Steel, did, too. Four times in the past decade, expectations have periodically been raised in similar

fashion. Might the next owners turn things around and provide the needed investments to make Sparrows Point competitive again? Each time, those hopes have been dashed and a parade of managers proved themselves unequal to the task. The recent Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by RG Steel on the heels of the company's decision to shut down operations and lay off nearby 2,000 workers at Sparrows Point, beginning today, came as no big surprise. Like those investors who came before it, the company says it wants to find a buyer for the facility (as well as the company's related operations in West Virginia and Ohio). ... So while we applaud the county's efforts, we would humbly recommend that the partnership be expanded to include members with expertise in brownfields and environmental contamination, as well as representatives of the local communities. Their expertise and opinion would no doubt prove valuable in any discussion of the property's future.

Commentary: Hold chemical companies to account
Industry lobbies against regulation of dangerous substances. Last month, we read a powerful story about just how far one industry would go to protect its bottom line. In a four-part exposé in the Chicago Tribune titled "Playing with Fire," we learned how big chemical companies — on a mission to sell more toxic chemicals — covered up the health impacts of their products, exaggerated their effectiveness, and went to extremes to scare legislators like us, poised to regulate these chemicals. The Tribune series detailed how the industry set up sham "citizen groups" to promote its agenda in the media, lied to low-income communities to garner community leaders' support, and even teamed up with Big Tobacco. At its worst, the chemical industry hired a doctor to travel from state to state, telling legislators the tale of a baby who died because of a lack of chemical flame retardants in her crib. The story was later revealed to be false, but it exposed just how low this industry will go to win. As state legislators in Maryland and Maine, we had a front-row view of these tactics, and the shocking stories in the Tribune's series seemed all too familiar. We have each sponsored bills to phase out certain kinds of toxic flame retardants. The chemicals were proven to do little to prevent fires and, worse, had been shown in numerous studies to cause hormone disruption, developmental problems, neurological deficits and impaired fertility. Europe had already started to take action to limit the use of these chemicals. The case for phase-out, especially in household products, was very clear.

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

From Early Bird Editorial: New York needs Bay plan
he federal Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to prompt New York state to complete its plan for reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay highlights the difficulty that Maryland has experienced for years in attempting to get multiple states to do their fair share. Maryland continues to adopt laws and impose fees designed to help the Bay. In the latest legislative session, lawmakers doubled the fee, the so-called flush tax, that residents must pay to help finance sewage treatment plant upgrades. Residents also face new local fees on driveways and impervious surfaces in an effort to reduce runoff, and farmers for years have seen increasingly strict regulations on their operations. But Maryland isn't alone in contributing pollution that impacts the Bay. The watershed region includes New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware. As such, the EPA requires each of those states to take steps to reduce pollution running into the Bay.

DUNDALK PATCH

From Early Bird Task Force to Study Baltimore Port Growth Potential
The Port of Baltimore is poised for "tremendous" growth in the near future and Baltimore County officials want to make sure they are prepared to tap into the economic development potential of that growth. Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz on Wednesday announced the creation of the Sparrows Point Partnership, a task force that will advise the county on the "highest and best" uses for industrially zoned properties on the Sparrows Point peninsula closest to the Seagirt Marine Terminal.

SALISBURY TIMES

From Early Bird Pollutants in Wicomico River decline slightly
SALISBURY -- Results of annual monitoring in the Wicomico River and its watershed show a very slight decrease in pollutant levels. The Wicomico Creekwatchers' 2011 Water Quality Monitoring Results were "quite mixed," the report states. The 23 sampling sites were divided into four groups: Ponds, Upper Wicomico, Lower Wicomico and Wicomico Creek. During this year's testing, all groups showed an improving trend in Total Nitrogen; but Chlorophyll, water clarity, and Total Phosphorus were worse for all groups, except for Total Phosphorous in the Upper Wicomico. Water clarity in particular worsened substantially. Judith Stribling, supervisor of the Creekwatchers' program, said the poor water clarity can be attributed to the year's low rainfall, which impaired flushing and promoted algae bloom growth.

From Early Bird Rare birds call Skimmer Island home
OCEAN CITY -- As boaters take advantage of the season and head out into the Sinepuxent Bay, local environmentalists are hoping they'll steer clear of Skimmer Island. The small piece of land just north of the Route 50 bridge into Ocean City is a nesting place for royal terns and black skimmers, two declining species of waterbirds. Roman Jesien, science coordinator for the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, said their populations have been shrinking because of changes to their habitat. "There's just no place for them to nest," he said. Skimmer Island is one of the last remaining places for the terns and skimmers to lay their eggs. Jesien said the relatively barren sand environment was perfect for them.

From Early Bird Four piping plover nests spotted at the Point
LEWES -- Unseasonably warm weather in March and a wet, windy and cooler April made for an uneven start to beachnester bird breeding season.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

From Early Bird Masses helping bay grasses [Learn more](#)

Her yard might be weedy, but Meredith Dash is trying to create beautiful underwater meadows in the James River. Dash, a Hanover County homemaker, raises river grasses on her dining room table and plants them in the James. A volunteer in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's "Grasses for the Masses" program, Dash started growing wild celery last year. "People would come over to my house and be like, 'What kind of science project do you have going?' " said Dash, 37. Dash and other bay foundation volunteers planted their latest crop May 26 in the James at Westover Plantation in Charles City County. Oysters, which filter pollution from water, get all the publicity — maybe because they taste better than grass. But aquatic plants such as wild celery, eelgrass and coontail are similarly important to the bay and its rivers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Early Bird Volunteers clean 150k pounds of debris from Bay

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) -- Volunteers who turned out for an annual effort to keep the Chesapeake Bay clean found an old military stretcher, a soccer goal, a \$50 bill and a light bulb covered with live oysters. Those items were among more common finds such as plastic bottles, plastic bags and cigarette butts that more than 6,500 volunteers gathered along Virginia's waterways and beaches on Saturday's Clean the Bay Day.

FREDERICKSBURG FREE LANCE-STAR

Earth-friendly pest protection is worth the wait Guy J. Mussey is an agent in Virginia Cooperative Extension's Stafford County office, specializing in environmental horticulture. ... THE GROWING season is upon us and along with the flowers, tomatoes and green grass come insects, weeds and other unwanted pests. Many of the calls I receive at the office are for advice on controlling these pests--quickly. Unfortunately, the most environmentally sound solutions require some time to work. There are alternatives to inundating our environment with pesticides if we are willing to lower our expectations a bit. Organic gardeners know that using biological and biorational controls can eliminate the need for synthetic chemicals.

Commentary: 'FRACKING' Can Access Energy from Below Ellen Gilliland's op-ed column on alternative energy: Fracking.

BLACKSBURG--One of the most controversial practices in the energy industry is the use of hydraulic fracturing, often called "fracking," to develop oil and gas reserves. The technique is designed to generate fractures in an oil- or gas-bearing reservoir rock, creating more connected pathways for the oil or gas to migrate to the wellbore. A perforation tool is used to puncture the steel well casing within the reservoir, creating pathways for oil or gas to flow to the well. Treatment fluid, about 3 million gallons of fresh water mixed with chemicals and sand, is pumped into the reservoir through the perforations. The treatment fluid causes pressure to build in the reservoir until the rock fractures. Normally, many of these fractures would close again due to natural stresses, but the sand "props" them open, allowing oil or gas to flow to the wellbore. Finally, treatment fluid is allowed to flow back to the surface, where it is collected and may be recycled for use at other wells or disposed of.

Sludge proposal worries Lake of the Woods residents “Good idea, but not here” is the general response of a group of Orange County homeowners to a proposal to apply treated sewage to farm fields near their homes. At the request of the Lake of the Woods Association, staff members of the state Department of Environmental Quality spoke at a town hall meeting earlier this week. Their purpose: to answer questions and respond to concerns about a permit modification allowing a Remington company to apply biosolids—treated sewage sludge used as fertilizer—to agricultural fields abutting about a half-dozen occupied lots on Rapidan Road, the only area of the subdivision on the north side of State Route 3. Resident Mark Nowacki said he lives “little more than a football field away” from the proposed application site and is strongly opposed to the plan. “It is repulsive,” he said. “I don’t want to be exposed to that foul odor. That affects the sanctuary of my home, my personal space.”

RICHMOND ROGRESSIVE EXAMINER

Wise Energy for Virginia Calls Out Big Coal's Fallacious PR Campaign A number of local environmental groups, including Appalachian Voices, the Virginia Sierra Club and Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards responded to Big Coal's fallacious nationwide PR campaign to stave-off the inevitable: coal's demise in the U.S. As if Big Coal's PR blitz weren't audacious enough, Big Coal is also put together a "Rally for Coal Jobs" on June 2nd in Washington County. No surprise here, Big Coal used the tried and untrue jobs claim to lambast the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). HOWEVER, according to federal data analyzed by Appalachian Voices, Virginia coal employment has dipped by a whopping 67% between 1984 and 2009 . That doesn't sound like job creation to me! Big Coal would be more accurate arguing that it has helped employ more Americans in the health care industry who have to treat coal-mining related illnesses and accidents!



MI SCELLANEOUS

NEW YORK TIMES

From Early Bird In Land of Gas Drilling, Battle for Water That Doesn't Reek or Fizz PAVILLION, Wyo. -- It has been more than four decades since the first well was drilled in the natural gas field beneath this stretch of slow rolling alfalfa and sugar beet farms. But for some who live here, in the shadows of the Wind River Mountains, the drilling rigs have brought more than jobs and industry. For the last few years, a small group of farmers and landowners scattered across this rural Wyoming basin have complained that their water wells have been contaminated with chemicals from a controversial drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. A draft report by the Environmental Protection Agency, issued in December, appeared to confirm their concerns, linking chemicals in local groundwater to gas drilling. But here on the front lines of the battle over fracking, which has become an increasingly popular technique to extract previously unobtainable reserves of oil and gas, no conclusion is yet definitive.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Early Bird Delaware River reservoir pact extended ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Officials in four states have signed off on a one-year extension of an agreement on how to manage the vast stores of water in New York City's reservoirs along the Delaware River. The pact is intended to protect fish habitat, mitigate flooding and preserve the city's ability to provide adequate water to more than nine million people. Conservation officials use advanced computer modeling to help them decide when it is safe to release water from the reservoirs into the river without risking the public water supply. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware are all parties to the deal.

HUFFINGTON POST

From Early Bird Hands Across Riverdale: The Human Costs of Fracking Last February, residents of the Riverdale Mobile Homes Park, a neighborhood on the outskirts of a small city in rural Lycoming County, Pennsylvania with the unlikely name of Jersey Shore, noticed an article in *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*. Richard A. "Skip" Leonard, who owned the land on which the 32 unit trailer park was located, had agreed to sell his property. A few days later the residents got letters from Donna P. Alston, director of communication for Aqua America Corporation, informing them that their leases had been terminated "immediately."

From Early Bird Grassroots Activism: The Core of the *Environmental* Movement Grassroots activism is the core of the environmental movement. Nowhere have I found that to be more evident than at Heartwood Forest Council gatherings. Last weekend, I attended the 22nd Annual Heartwood Forest Council in Northwest Pennsylvania, at which nearly 100 of the most passionate and dedicated activists gathered in the Allegheny National Forest next to the land of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Adding Faces and Voices to the Fight to Cut Carbon Pollution Last week, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held hearings in Washington, D.C. and Chicago about their proposed new standard to limit carbon pollution from new power plants. For those of us who don't live near a power plant this may seem like a lower priority issue. However, the truth is it affects us all and as my colleague Kim Knowlton wrote Monday, each person's voice in support of this issue and the proposed carbon standard is critical right now.

NEWARK STAR-LEDGER

From Early Bird Moran: Trials, triumphs and intriguing future of EPA head Lisa Jackson WASHINGTON — To find the hottest flash point between President Obama and his Republican opponents these days, take the Metro to the Federal Triangle stop and visit Lisa Jackson. If Republicans were fighting with artillery, her sprawling office at the Environmental Protection Agency would be a priority target. They have tried to take away her agency's funds. They have tried to strip her power to regulate. Some have proposed killing her agency entirely. If Republicans win big in November, the change will be profound.

NRDC-SWITCHBOARD

From Early Bird Update: House Votes for Dirty Water As I forecast yesterday, the House just voted on an amendment offered by Representatives Moran (D-VA) and Dingell (D-MI) to the spending bill that funds the Army Corps of Engineers, which would have enabled experts at the Corps to continue to work with the Environmental Protection Agency to better protect tributary streams and wetlands based on scientific evidence of those waters' importance. Unfortunately, the House instead decided to force the Corps to stop work on needed reforms, voting against the clean water amendment.

OIL & GAS JOURNAL

From Early Bird EPA issues final rule for refinery flares, process heaters The US Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule updating Clean Air Act standards for refinery flares and process heaters on June 1. The new standards will reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and volatile organic compound emissions while saving refiners about \$80 million/year, EPA said. American Petroleum Institute and American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers officials immediately disagreed. EPA said the final rule, which was a response to petitions asking the agency to reconsider standards issued in 2008, provides greater compliance flexibility to refiners and ensures that they can make routine operational requirements without triggering new requirements. It said the new standards rely on proven, widely used technologies to cut pollution from flares and process heaters. EPA estimates that they will provide as much as \$600 million/year in health benefits. They also encourage refiners to recover gas that can be used to run equipment at their plants, it added.

BLOOMBERG NEWS

From Early Bird Judge Orders EPA to Issue Proposed Rule Setting Particulate Standards by June 7 A federal judge May 31 ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to sign a proposed rule setting air pollution standards for particulate matter by June 7 (*American Lung Ass'n v. EPA*, D.D.C., No. 1:12-cv-243, 5/31/12). EPA missed its October 2011 statutory deadline to revise the national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter, and Judge Robert Wilkins of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said the agency has not provided a reasonable explanation as to why the rulemaking process has taken so long. The American Lung Association, National Parks Conservation Association, and 11 states, including New York and California, have asked the court to compel EPA to review the particulate matter standards (43 ER 1205, 5/11/12). EPA appears to have finished work on the proposed rule.

EPA Asks Manufacturers of 18 Chemicals To Submit 'All Relevant' Risk Information

Chemical manufacturers that produce certain flame retardants, fragrances, and other chemicals are being asked to submit to the Environmental Protection Agency by Aug. 31 information relevant to the risks the compounds pose. Hazard data, exposure data, and other risk-relevant information that has been developed by other organizations also may be submitted. EPA released on June 1 a list of 18 chemicals in commerce for which it plans to complete risk assessments in 2013 and 2014. The agency also asked interested parties to submit information, such as unpublished scientific studies that are not already available through the existing literature or information on uses and potential exposures, to the agency for the assessments.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

From Early Bird Pollution, Poverty, People of Color: The factory on the hill. NORTH RICHMOND, Calif. – From the house where he was born, Henry Clark can stand in his back yard and see plumes pouring out of one of the biggest oil refineries in the United States. As a child, he was fascinated by the factory on the hill, all lit up at night like the hellish twin of a fairy tale city. In the morning, he'd go out to play and find the leaves on the trees burned to a crisp. "Sometimes I'd find the air so foul, I'd have to grab my nose and run back into the house until it cleared up," he said. The refinery would burn off excess gases, sending "energy and heat waves that would rock our house like we were caught in an earthquake," recalled Clark, 68. When the area was engulfed in black smoke for up to a week after one accident, "nobody came to check on the health of North Richmond." With all of the frequent explosions and fires that sent children fleeing schools, parks and a swimming pool within a mile of the refinery, "we just hoped that nothing happened that would blow everybody up," Clark said. "People still wonder when the next big accident is going to happen." For 100 years, people, mostly blacks, have lived next door to the booming Chevron Richmond Refinery built by Standard Oil, a plant so huge it can process 240,000 barrels of crude oil a day. Hundreds of tanks holding millions of barrels of raw crude dot 2,900 acres of property on a hilly peninsula overlooking the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. Five thousand miles of pipeline there move gasoline, jet fuel, diesel and other chemical products.

CANON-MCMILLANPATCH

New Database Unifies Data to Support Marcellus Shale Research The database was released by the Center of Biodiversity and Ecosystems of Carnegie Museum of Natural History. ... Once launched, the new website will provide the public with the same information already provided to scientists, researchers, and industry professionals, but in an easy-to-use interactive map format. It is anticipated that the launch of this site will occur by the end of 2012. "When everyone uses the same reliable data for their research," Wenzel said, "all parties can sit at the same table and have an informed discussion about issues surrounding natural gas development. Everyone benefits from having good records that are accessible."

PLATTS

US gas groups say EPA overestimated fracking-related methane The American Petroleum Institute and America's Natural Gas Alliance also said venting of methane from into the atmosphere during natural gas liquids unloading is 86% lower than EPA's calculations. Emissions from well-refracturing operations are 72% lower than EPA has estimated, groups said. Well refracturing is a technique done to repair or stimulate production from an existing well. The associations said their findings were based on a survey of data from 91,000 wells over a broad geographic area and operated by more than 20 companies. The groups noted that in 2011, the EPA introduced a new calculation method that more than doubled the estimated emissions from gas production. They also said the EPA's estimates were based on a small set of data submitted by a limited number of companies.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERT

EPA dishes \$69.3 million towards contaminated sites cleanup Contaminated sites stemming from abandoned industrial and commercial properties are a problem. Other than being an eyesore, they can significantly prohibit the growth and economic development of their surrounding communities. It is for this reason the EPA announced on May 24th that they will be dispersing \$69.3 million in grants towards new investments that will provide funding for communities to address these contaminated properties, redevelop them and in turn boost their economies, create jobs and improve and protect public health. ... 39 states across the US will see dollars sent their way through 245 grants that will be funded through the EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) grant, and Revolving Loan Fund Supplemental grants.